

536

1912 Dates. J-BK

FRANKS

Franks obtained the PROVENCE

536 to 540

The Italian Ostrogothic Kingdom

VITIGIS

^{Early}
536

Theodahed made various ventures to
Justinian; he was to move to Constantinople
as a senator with yearly income of 1200
pounds gold

Spring 536

Easter 536

The imperial troops in Carthage rebelled.
The Goths won their 1st victory.

MUNDU's bands were no match for Theodahad's
Dalmatian army. The old bandit & his son
were killed and the rest of his troops left
the country. But the native Dalmatians
had not the slightest intention of supporting
the Goths. This victory gave Theodahad new
courage. He forgot the officers he & his

wife had made to Constantinople under Odoacer.
The Gothic King violated ambassadorial immunity
by arresting PETRUS PATRICIUS who subsequently
spent 4 yrs in Gothic captivity. Soon an
imperial fleet put to sea from Sicily
and conquered Dalmatia. The Gothic
settlers were persuaded to join the
imperial cause.

536

When Belisarius was besieging Naples
in 536, the Jews organized the supplies
and acquitted themselves well
in open battle

End
Nov 536

A revolt took place among the
Gothic troops at the end of Nov 536
Theodahad tried to escape to Ravenna
but was murdered by a personal
enemy on orders from the new
king VITIGIS.

Dec 9 v10, 536

Belisarius began to entrench
himself in Rome.

Apart from the city militia, he had at
his command only about 5000

Early Dec 536

There had been killed on his flight
from Rome to Lorena.

Vitiges voiced his concern that
the Franks might attack the Goths
in the rear; and the army voted
for the retreat to Lorena.

After reaching the city VITIGES
concluded the long overdue
treaty with the Franks.

The Ostrogoths paid an indemnity of 2000 pounds of gold, exactly 5% of the treasure with which Amalasuintha had intended to flee to Byzantium; they gave up their protectorate over the Alamanni and other Eastern Alpine peoples; and they relinquished southeastern Gaul, from which they could now recall their troops.

Dec 536

Vitigis established his rule as that of king of the army; he is the first Gothic king whose raising on the shield is recorded. It took place "with drawn swords according to ancestral custom & the situation demanded that as new king he give up his advantageous position and move to Ravenna, seize the royal city, and marry MATHASUNTHA, Theodoric's granddaughter

536

1912 Dates J-BK

535-536

St. AGAPETUS I was 57th Pontiff
He succeeded John II

536

THEODABAD killed.

WITTIGES rebated him

Blisarius captured and
held Rome against siege.

spring 536

Belisarius advanced through South Italy with 7,000 men, meeting no resistance till he reached Naples, while 50,000 Goths lay about in Rome. Then the Gothic Army in despair deposed Theodahad who was promptly murdered by a private enemy; and as there was no Amal left, they elected as king WITIGES, a valiant

but stupid old warrior who had forgotten anything of generalship that he may once have known.

Belisarius with a small force poured on Rome, which the garrison evacuated in a panic as he entered. Reinforcements were denied him but he held on to the capital

536-540

VITIGIS was king of the Ostrogoths

Ny
536

The Gothic army's revolt came at a time when the Gothic king Theodahad was doing nothing to relieve Naples (sieged by Belisarius). Suspicions were voiced. There were rumors of treachery. Theodahad fled, and in late Nov 536, the Gothic Army made VLTIGIS king. Although Justinian was at war with the Goths he accepted their decision. But Constantinople now had to move

force of arms, to compel the king, duly
elected by the Gothic Army, to submit
himself and his kingdom to the emperor,
thereby annulling Zen's agreement with
Theodoric

Theodahad lost his kingship & life because he had proved "useless" in the face of the enemy, thus disqualifying himself as king of the Goths.

A proven commander (dux ex virtute) was raised on the shield. This was VITIGIS who was "of no illustrious family" but who did

belong, along with his relatives, to the Polish
military "establishment"

Both the uncle and nephew of the new
Catholic king were high ranking commanders